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# **Land Use Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

DuPage County Conference Room

Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Willis Tower, Chicago, Illinois

#### **Members Present:**

Ed Paesel (chair), Dave Galowich (Vice-Chair), Judy Beck, Robert Cole, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Kimberly Flom, Sheena Freve, Steve Lazzara (for Curt Paddock), Arnold Randall, Heather Tabbert, Norm West

#### **Members Absent:**

Roger Dahlstrom, , Lisa DiChiera, Dennis Sandquist, Heather Smith, Eric Waggoner, Nathaniel Werner, Nancy Williamson, Jeromie Winsor

### **Staff Present:**

Stephen Ostrander (committee liaison), Nora Beck, Bob Dean, Trevor Dick, Lori Heringa, Pete Saunders

#### Others Present:

Paul Hoss (DuPage County), Joshua McClusky (IDOT), Ryan Richter (Metra)

# 1.0 Call to Order

Chair Ed Paesel called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

# 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Ed Paesel introduced the committee's newest member, Sheena Freve from Metropolis Strategies, who is replacing longtime committee member Jim LaBelle.

# 3.0 Approval of Meeting Notes

A motion to approve the minutes of October 19, 2011, was made by Rob Cole and seconded by Kimberly Flom. All in favor, the motion carried.

# 4.0 Local Technical Assistance Program: Carpentersville – Trevor Dick, CMAP

Trevor provided an update on the Carpentersville LTA project, including details of the Nov. 16 charrette (in which many committee members participated), along with next steps; he also sought feedback from committee members on the details of each of the four design concepts

(which are available through this link (17MB).

Ed Paesel: Recommended traffic signal at intersection could be a good candidate for CMAQ.

Judy Beck: Missoula, Montana has a lot of traffic, too, and chose to close a street just on the weekends during its farmer's market, and this could be a good model for Carpentersville. (Ed noted Springfield, IL does this as well.)

Dave Galowich: Currently, traffic in Carpenstersville bypasses its main street, so there is a need to draw traffic toward this main commercial corridor.

Ed: East Dundee has an [economically-healthy] downtown just to the south of Carpentersville. Trevor: Yes, with Dundee, there is a recognition in Carpenstersville that they must build upon sub-regional strengths, not replicate.

Judy: I would be cautious about filling in land along the river. This area seems a good candidate for green infrastructure.

Steve Lazzara: Any recreational use of river?

Trevor: There is a canoe launch on the southern end. [Regarding recreational uses], there are plans to convert the old raceway to a bicycle trail.

Norm West: On river, possibility of whitewater recreation? Dave Galowich: the river is not especially well-suited for this.

Trevor: CMAP will be offering these design concepts to the community through MetroQuest, and on February 7, there will be an open house in Carpentersville, at which they will report community response to design concepts.

Kristi DeLaurentiis: Do you expect the best, or most popular, ideas to be [combined] into a single proposal?

Trevor: Absolutely.

### **5.0 Local Food Toolkit** – Lori Heringa, CMAP

Lori Heringa gave an overview of CMAP's upcoming local food ordinance toolkit (presentation available <a href="here">here</a>).

Norm: Is any of the "4 billion of food is grown outside of region" contract-farming? Lori: I'll need to get back to you on that.

Judy: When you have brownfields [targeted for future food production], there is a need for soil testing. Also, there is a need to connect programs like LINK to farmers markets. Lori: We did a case study on [allowing customers to use their LINK cards at farmers markets];

there is actually a lot of funding available to help set this up.

Judy: Regarding measurements of the distance traveled by food in our region, there is a need to be careful, since much comes from Michigan, which is relatively close (but farmers must travel around Lake Michigan to get to Chicago). Last year, the League of Women Voters had a workshop on local food.

Norm: Contract farming can be very effective. Buffalo, NY has successfully implemented this.

Kimberly Flom: What about organic meat, etc.? Lori: That is beyond the scope of this project.

Dave Galowich: [His company] Madison is working on a prototype system that would help get local food into supermarkets. There is a real need to standardize what "local food" means. Madison is looking into "aquaponics" (raising fish, using their waste to help grow vegetables), but most communities' regulations see this as the same as raising livestock. Judy: This is allowed in Milwaukee.

Kristi: Are you going to provide best practices on farmers markets? Lori: That was not part of the original scope, but [perhaps we should].

Ed: SSMMA is hosting a <u>workshop</u> on February 28 on good agricultural practices for safe produce.

Steve Lazzara: The unincorporated community of Fairmont is looking into community gardens as part of the CMAP LTA project there. Since the community is unincorporated, the governing Will County regulations provide a little more freedom to explore this possibility.

# **6.0 Local Technical Assistance Program: Joliet Prison and U.S. Steel Site** – Pete Saunders, CMAP

Pete Saunders gave a <u>preview</u> of the Technical Assistance Panel led by ULI Chicago on January 24th and 25th, which considered redevelopment opportunities for the former Joliet Prison, as well as the adjoining site formerly occupied by U.S. Steel.

Norm: How much have [nearby] rail yards influenced the local economy?

Pete: Much of the railway industry is now automated, so there are not as many jobs as there used to be.

Norm: There are endangered species in that area (e.g. along the Des Plaines River). Any attempt to work with CN on this site?

Pete: No.

Dave: Their existing rail yard might be sold.

Steve: There is the possibility of using the quarry for recreational fishing.

Dave: This was mentioned by former prison guards on recent tour.

Arnold Randall: Did the City of Joliet invite CMAP in for this project?

Pete: Yes, and the City was behind the inclusion of the U.S. Steel site.

Arnold: I would suggest reaching out to the City of Chicago, which has lessons learned about

working with U.S. Steel.

Dave: ULI is currently trying to get more information released from U.S. Steel. Also, there are a few sold-off sections of the U.S. Steel site that actually now have some active busineses.

Judy: Grade separation issues on the project site can be seen as an opportunity, e.g. for providing a view of the surrounding area, and this site could provide a nice opportunity also for a connection between the history/heritage and nature of this area.

Pete: The ULI TAP will also be looking into the possibility of creating continuous bicycle trails that connect all the way down to Starved Rock.

# 7.0 Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the CMAP Land Use Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2012.

### 9.0 Other Business

Heather Tabbert announced that the RTA has published its guide to parking strategies for transit-oriented development (Stephen Ostrander agreed to try to schedule a presentation by Heather at the committee's February meeting.)

### 10.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

# 11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Ostrander

Staff Liaison to the Land Use Committee